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BO TALES

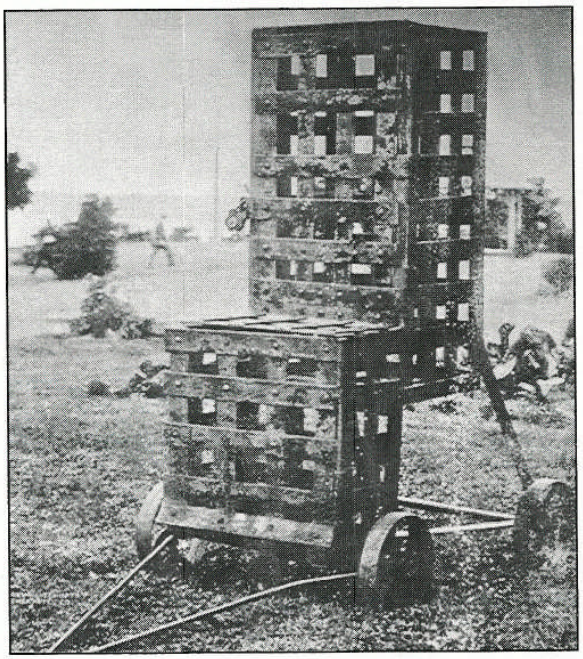
Vol. No.1 The Newsletter of the Original Hobo Nickel Society April 1997

THE "TRAMP CHAIR"

by Bill Fivaz

You meet the most interesting people at the OHNS Table!!

While manning the Original Hobo Nickel Society table at the January '97 F.U.N. show, Maine member **Archie Taylor** showed us a very interesting article he came across involving a "**Tramp Chair**" which was used back in the late 1800's, most probably throughout New England, but certainly in the state of Maine. As the close-up photo of the chair states: "Sam O Set Hotel Rockland, Breakwater, ME. Tramp Chair. Used in this vacinity as recently as ten years ago, tramps being locked up for about ten hours and then glad to be free. If two or three were caught, they would pull them in a cage thorough the streets or along the road. This method eradicated tramps entirely".



The article was in the Morning Sentinel, dated June 16, 1983, and was relating to the Oakland Centennial (1883-1983), so the "chair" was used during the late 1800's. The other photo (from the newspaper, so it may not show too well), shows several youngsters in and around the device, with the caption "school children giggle as they try out the chair".

The accompanying article reads as follows:

"TRAMPS BEWARE! THE CHAIR AWAITS".

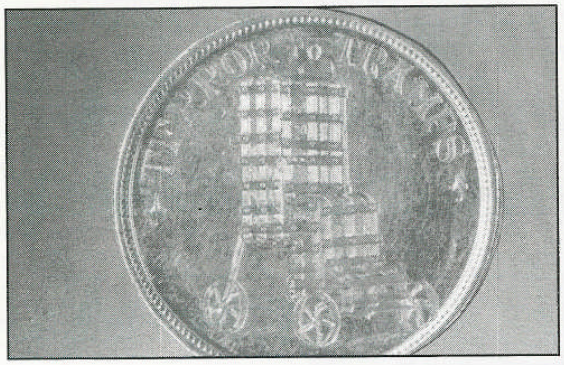
If the edge-tool hall of fame or birthplace of the Central Maine Power Co. isn't enough to assure Oakland's place in history, perhaps the notorious "Tramp Chair" will.

Invented and produced in the late 1800's, the tramp chairs were bizarre contraptions of scrap metal fabricated to display and humiliate unwanted tramps - a serious problem in Oakland because of the intersection of two major railroad lines. The parading of tramps, bums, town drunks and various other ne'er-do-wells eventually became a New England tradition, and Oakland has

received credit for originating the idea of the tramp chair. Details however are somewhat inconsistent. One account says that more than a dozen were made, all before 1865, and that they were distributed to various towns. Another account indicates that at least one blacksmith was still making tramp chairs here around the turn of the century (probably more accurate since the civil was in full swing in the early 1860's) . One example of a chair, is on display at the Bangor Historical Society Museum, and another is said to reside in the Smithsonian Institute. A private individual has a small salesman's sample that has been offered for sale at the local historical society.

Mr. Taylor then showed us a $20.00 gold piece that had had both sides ground off and engraved. On one side was an engraving of a

"Tramp Chair", with the words "TERROR TO TRAMPS" over the top.



On the reverse was engraved: "This medal awarded to S.J. BAKER/Inventor of the Tramp Chair/ March 12, 1900/ By Town of Oakland, ME"

Talk about your Hobo history! This gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "getting the chair" and we thank Archie Taylor for providing this most interesting account and related material.

HAVE A SEAT!!

****

NATIONAL COIN WEEK is coming up April 20-26. It's a great time to promote Hobo Nickel collecting and the hobby in general. If you're a member of Lions, Kiwanis, Elks, Moose, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, a C of C, or any other service, fraternal, or volunteer organization why not volunteer to put on a slide show during National Coin Week. It's fun, easy and you often learn a lot yourself in the process. Complete slide shows are available to members from Bill Fivaz or Ray Flanigan for just the cost of the postage. Just let them know the date of your presentation. Slides must be returned promptly so others can use them.

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'BERT' TO RUN FOR OHNS BOARD

Saying he would make name recognition the cornerstone of his campaign Bertram 'Bert' Simonson indicated he was definitely thinking of maybe running for office in the OHNS.

HOW ABOUT YOU! The OHNS needs nominations for officers for next year. It's a pretty rewarding task and a lot of fun. If you're interested in holding office and helping the club OR if you know someone who is please contact the nominating committee through **Ray Flanigan**, Box 227 Butler, NJ 07480 (rtflanigan@Worldnet.att.com) OR **James Taylor** 818 North Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903 (anaedu@money.org.) Offices and chairpersons to be elected or appointed include:

Officers	
President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer
Sergeant-at-Arms	Editor, BO TALES
Committees	
Education	Publicity
Membership	Nominating

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Fivaz, OHNS President

Welcome to another issue of BO TALES!

The OHNS auction at this year's F.U.N. Convention was the most successful ever, with a hammer price of nearly **$15,000!!** Bidding was active, with several lots going to mail bidders, and with 3 lots selling for over $1,000. See the prices realized breakdown on Page 6.

B. Fivaz - circa 1995

We had an excellent board meeting on Saturday morning prior to the General Membership Meeting and auction, and several items of interest to the membership were discussed. Foremost among them were:

- New Treasurer - Chuck "Buddah" Irwin unfortunately had to resign as club treasurer due to time constraints, so our Immediate Past President, Dallas "Colonel" Shaw, volunteered to step in and serve in this capacity for the balance of "Buddah's" term. Our thanks to "Buddah" for a job well done and to "Colonel" for his willingness to help us out in this regard.

- Authentication - A motion passed in January, 1995 was re-confirmed that any member submitting 10 coins at one time would be charged **$12.50 per coin** instead of the usual $15.00. A limit of 10 coins per shipment was established so as to reduce the liability exposure while the submissions were in the hands of the authenticators. James Taylor is looking into the insurance coverage for authenticators while handling member's coins.

  Also, although it has not occurred yet, it was passed that if the authenticators disagree by more than one category on any submission, that coin shall go to a third authenticator. As an example, if authenticator "A" certifies the coin as an "Above Average" piece and authenticator "B" declares it to be "Below Average" in his/her opinion, it shall be sent to a third authenticator for his/her opinion.

- Mail Deliveries - OHNS sincerely apologizes for late deliveries of either the last edition of BO TALES or the Auction Catalog. The USPS policy regarding 2nd and 3rd class mail has created a major problem in getting these classes of mail to customers within a **reasonable** time (how many of you have been getting your *Coin World* and/or *Numismatic News* on time?), so the board voted to send all future BO TALES and Auction Catalogs out via 1st Class Mail until the USPS gets their act in order.

- Senior Summer Seminar Scholarships - the board also voted to award a Senior Scholarship (to go along with the YN scholarship) to the ANA Summer Seminar each year. All members

in good standing are eligible, and will be selected on a "points earned" basis, the details of which may be found on Page 8. What a great way to have a week of fun and non-stop numismatic education during the summer.

- Membership/P.R. Chairman - Sgt.-at-Arms James Taylor has the responsibility of finding a Membership/Public Relations Chairman for the club. This will likely be a board seat, so if you have an interest in helping your club in this capacity, please contact James at the ANA.

B. Fivaz - circa 199

- Estimated Value on Auction Lots - a member has suggested that future auction catalogs include an estimated value for each lot. This idea was considered but rejected by the board, as prices realized lists have been published following each auction for the members' review and it would be very difficult to include a composite estimated value figure for each lot.

- One Auction Per Year - the Board voted to hold only one auction each year, that being at the January F.U.N. convention in Orlando, Florida. This decision was made for three reasons: 1) In all of the previous auctions at least 90% of the coins being offered have been from my personal collection. This amounts to about 200 coins, and very frankly, I'm running out of them! If more members decide to submit lots for future auctions, the board will reconsider and possibly go back to two auctions per year, the second one at the early Fall ANA. 2) The auction is a lot of work to set up, get the catalog printed, etc. and one auction per year is much easier to administer. 3) The auction at the F.U.N. convention usually produces better attendance and more income for the club than does the one held at the ANA.

- BO TALES - it was decided to maintain the 3-times-a-year schedule (April, August, and December) until more articles come in from the members (see the information on the Summer Seminar Scholarship contest mentioned above).

A final reminder.....If you haven't paid your dues for 1997 yet, PLEASE be a good 'Bo' and send your $10.00 to Bo-ette at P.O. Box 1409, Malvern, PA 19355-1049 today, so you won't be dropped from the membership roll. We want you as a member, and hopefully you want us an organization, and feel you're getting your money's worth in BO TALES, the auction, and now the opportunity to win a scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar.

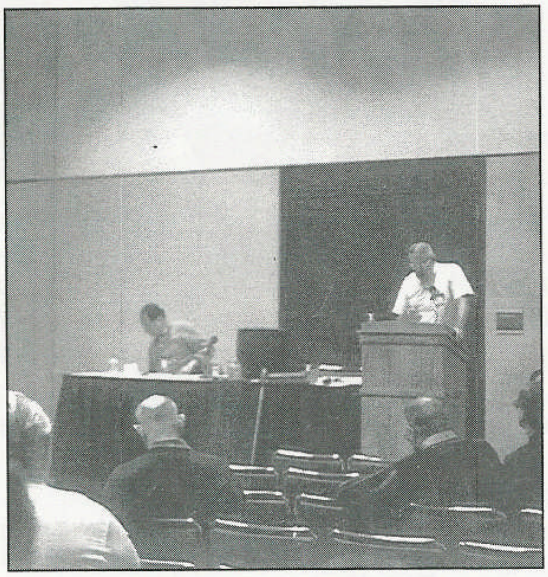
Until the August issue, keep on keepin' on, and I'll see you a the jungle down the tracks or a the next coin show....which ever comes first!

And let's all remember: "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now and not defer it, for I shall not pass this way again. *Zemo*

AUCTION RESULTS: In case you weren't able to make the F.U.N. show this year here are the PRICES REALIZED from our very successful auction.

The temperature was considerably better than last year - the blizzard of '96. There were more members on hand this year, for while it was warm outside, it was even warmer inside and who ever heard of a 'bo' who wouldn't come in out of the cold?

Our erstwhile President, 'old' Zemo (he's even retired now) again conducted the auction and threw in a few quips like '*once BU*' for a pretty crude looking nickel. Just below Bill getting ready to start the auction and 'Erie' (Ray Flanigan) getting ready to handle the mail bids and record the action.



Bo's totally hand carved portrait of Bert, Lot 33, signed "GH-33" was the record setter. The coin appears on Page 75 in the 'new' Hobo Nickel book and brought a hammer price (Bill didn't actually have a hammer, he used an old spoon instead, but who ever heard of an 'old spoon' price?) of **$1,500.** Not a bad price for a great piece of original art.

2nd place was a tie between lots 15 and 30. Lot 30 was another wonderful "Bo', but lot 15 may hold the record for the highest price paid for a non 'Bert' or 'Bo'. The 'spoon' price for the two-sided 1913-P nickel was **$1,300**. Two-sided carvings are really rarer than 'Bert' or 'Bo's. The 'cheapest' [note: the editor wanted me to say least expensive, but we both know what 'cheapest' means] was an astounding $75. Most of the coins sold around $100 which is an indication of the popularity of 'hobos', the quality of coins represented in the auction and the skills of the auctioneer.

The total, $14,770, translates into just over $2,200 for OHNS scholarship fund. Two YN's will be sponsored to this year's ANA Summer Seminar.

The next auction will not be held in New York at the ANA, but will be held next January at the F.U.N. Convention.

Material has to be in early to be cataloged and the catalogs printed (we use a real slow Augusta printer, but he's a member and he's cheap and he doesn't charge too much either) and distributed - **SO** if you have nickels you would like to have in the next auction look for submission details in the next BO TALES and get your coins in early.

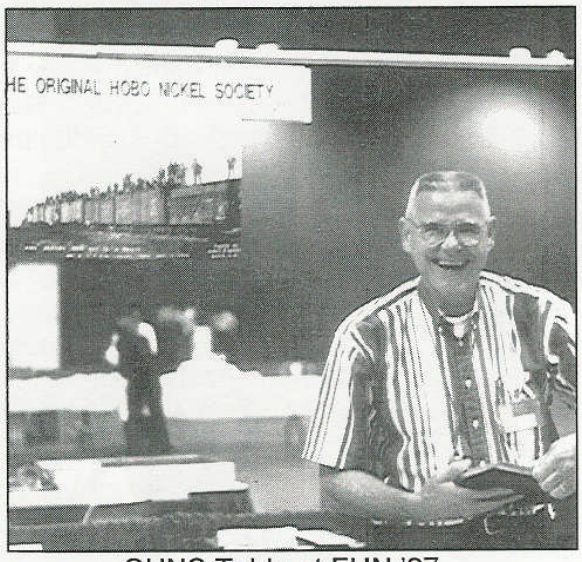
Several OHNS members expressed disappointment this year at not being able to get their coins in the auction. TALES comes out in August and coins will more than likely have to be in by early October - if your coins need to be certified - and they do if they're going to be in the auction.

PRICES REALIZED

Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	75	32	175
2	350	33	1,500
3	155	34	85
4	90	35	150
5	325	36	125
6	90	37	500
7	120	38	150
8	110	39	155
9	105	40	225
10	130	41	350
11	135	42	325
12	100	43	130
13	110	44	250
14	220	45	200
15	1,300	46	275
16	115	47	140
17	110	48	140
18	130	49	150
19	200	50	100
20	225	51	160
21	375	52	1,150
22	90	53	110
23	225	54	210
24	170	55 Withdrawn	
25	90	56	50
26	250	57	45
27	375	58	40
28	165	59	15
29	150	60	15
30	1,300	61	15
31	350	62	100

Lot 54 was the last nickel. If you would like to see more lots like the last 7 (or if you wouldn't) send a note or a post card to the Editor, Box 1051, Burlington, MA 01803. He'd love to hear from you and might even publish it in the letters to the editor column. If you have any other suggestions or thought's you'd like to share with other members write today! And finally, a very special thanks to all those who helped out at the table, showed the auction coins, answered questions about OHNS and signed up new members.

YOU are what makes the Society what it is. If you weren't there this year consider signing up to help out next year - it's fun and you meet a lot of wonderful people - just ask Bill.



OHNS Table at FUN '97
Photo by Dave Wilson

Quote of the Day! This one was heard at the F.U.N. show this past January. **STRESS** is the confusion created when one's mind overrides the body's basic desire to choke the living %#@$ out of some @!#$& one who desperately needs it.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Gail Baker "Bo-ette" Kraljevich
e-mail: abibaker@erols.com

Membership in the Original Hobo Nickel Society is at an all-time high with **363 active members** from 41 states. Unfortunately, 92 of those active members will be dropped after this issue if they do not pay their renewal dues. PLEASE check your label on this newsletter - if the year after your membership number is 1996, THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF ***BO-TALES***! You will NOT receive any more auction information! **Please send your dues to:**

O.H.N.S.
P.O. Box 1409
Malvern, PA 19355

Dues:

$10.00	Regular Adult
$5.00	Junior Membership
$250.00	Life Membership

Perhaps we should offer a discount to those members that renew for **multiple years** - *membership, what do you think?*

Done and Been **by Gypsy Moon,** the book highlighted in the last issue of Bo-Tales, is still available from **Charlie Davis** for $12.95 plus $2.50 shipping and handling. It contains hobo history, vocabulary, oral stories, food recipes and much more.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Send check or MO
$15.45 (paperback) or $30.95 (hard cover) to:

Charlie Davis
P.O. Box 547
Wenham, MA 01984
Phone: 508-468-2933

Charlie has other books on hoboes, the Depression, and life in the early part of the century - give him a call! Tell him "Bo-ette" sent you!

*****

"Bindle Stiff" or **"Day Late & Dollar Short"** writes: "As a follow-up to your Dec. 96 issue of ***Bo-Tales*** and my request to run a special at 1/2 off on Life Membership dues; I would like to add perhaps we could extend the $150.00 'Special' offer." He adds: "I'd be happy to become a 'Lifer' at $150.00."

*****

Steve Roach, a notable YN from Michigan, sent a great article from the ***Chicago Tribune*** entitled ***'recreational hobos' reviving a tradition***. National Hobo Association Director, **Bobb "Santa Fe Bo" Hopkins** estimates that 5,000 to 10,000 people are riding freight trains illegally in the United States. A spokesman for the Federal Railroad Administration in Washington, D.C., characterizes recreational hoboing as "undoubtedly an illegal, dangerous and stupid act. It boggles my mind why people would risk their lives, regardless of the romantic images conjured up in hobo lore."

A spokesman for the recreational hobo group, ***The Loco Motives***, from Chicago says that riding the rails "is not always a pleasant ride... hobos bring lawn chairs to sit on and cotton balls to stuff in their ears. The trains groan and rock and let out a metallic screech that can be as frightening as it is exhilarating. Grime is a constant companion, picked up from everything you touch. Winds in the cars can rush through as the freights hit speeds of up to 55 mph. If it's sunny, you can bake on the metal cars. If it's chilly and you lack padding as a shield from the car floor, it can feel as if you're sitting on a large, frozen TV dinner tray. The problems definitely take a bit of the luster off the romantic imagery of riding the rails and living the vagabond life, but they contribute something to the sense of adventure."

" The views from freight trains can be magnificent, dreamlike and poignant, almost like an escape. You get on a train and all of your troubles are gone. You don't have to think of the day-to-day problems. You just have to think about what's ahead at the next stop and enjoy."

*****

WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IS A GOOD 5c CIGAR!

Remember that phrase?

Well, What this Society needs is to retain all of it's current members, gain some new members, and have lots of BOs write articles for BO TALES!

One of the old 'BOs' who usually hangs around the Florida jungle, (you know who I mean?) suggested that we could kill two birds with one stone. It sounded like he might have actually come up with a way to solve all three problems with one solution (as members of the Audubon Society we don't 'kill birds') and....well here's the plan.

How would you like to go the **ANA Summer Seminar** all expenses paid (if you walk)? Here's the deal.
Pay your dues by December 31, and your name goes in the hat (probably one of James' old white hats). Sign up a **new** member and we'll put your name in again (opps - need to change the membership application form to include sponsor if there is one). Anyway back to the hat.

WRITE an article for BO TALES and you'll get your name in the hat TWICE more (You just have to write the article - nobody said it had to be used) BUT **IF** it is used you'll get two more slips - a total of 4 for one short article. 4 chances for 1 article, 8 for 2 articles. Does that sound like a used caboose salesman? PLUS you also get a free authentication.

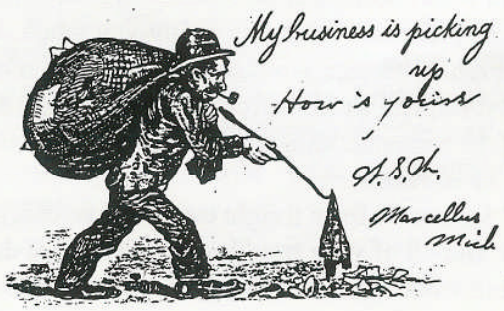
Now belonging to the OHNS can be a lot of fun. Getting a free trip to the ANA Summer Seminar for having fun sounds too good to be true. Right now I'm trying to get Cindy Crawford to join the OHNS and draw the name out of the hat at the FUN show in '98. I've called her several times, but the only time she called me back I wasn't home. Guess I'll just have to keep trying. Maybe I can get El McPherson. Bo-ette wants me to get Clint Black - nah!. One last thing - ok two. First, Board members are not eligible and 2) we are still going to have our YN Scholarship, with us contributing $500 and the ANA matching our contribution for a total YN Scholarship of $1000. The member award includes room, board, tuition and all the fun you can have. Travel is by the usual BO method.

Letters From Our Members

You get the idea

Classified Ads

WANTED: Paying $1,000 each for Superior, Cameo, OHNS Certified (one signature must be Del Romines) **HOBO** Nickels. Also want any size '***Potty***' Coins. Harry R. Carskadon, 13569 Harter Place, Nevada City, CA 95959.



ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY
SUBMISSION FORM FOR REGISTRATION/CERTIFICATION

This certification service for Hobo Nickels and Hobo Carvings is provided for members and non-members of the Original Hobo Nickel Society. It is an **independent opinion** on the authenticity of any Hobo Carving on a U.S. Coin. All submissions will be reviewed by two authenticators and will receive an authentication/certification form completed by both authenticators with quality grade, comments, and photo.

No refunds will be made.

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM WITH EACH COIN TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AUTHENTICATORS:

Del Romines
P.O. Box 1586
Tucker, GA 30085-1586

Bill Fivaz
P.O. Box 888660
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

Don Farnsworth
11 Burlington St.
Burlington, MA 01803

Owner's name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone Number: (Optional)_____

Owner's value of coin (**this information is necessary for insurance**): $_____

OHNS Member? (circle one) Yes No Membership #_____

Registration/Certification fee structure

(Please make all checks payable to: Original Hobo Nickel Society)

Members: $15.00 per coin* Non-members: $25.00 per coin*

(10 coins: $12.50 per coin)

Each coin must be accompanied by a separate form.

*Includes postage and insurance up to $100.00.

For coins valued over $100.00 by the owner, please enclose sufficient funds for insurance and Registration/Certification.

ALL SUBMISSIONS WHETHER DEEMED TO BE "ORIGINAL" OR "NEO-BOS" (1981 TO PRESENT) WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED AND REGISTERED (1) OR CERTIFIED (2).

(1) REGISTERED - Certified as an original (1913-1980) piece and assigned a registration number (with photo).
(2) CERTIFIED - Certified as a "neo-bo" (1981 to present) with no registration number (with photo).

I understand that the opinion rendered by the examiner on my submission is strictly that, an opinion, and is not a guarantee that the item is genuine. It is however, the best considered judgement by qualified specialists in the area, but others may reach different conclusions.

No warranties are expressed or implied from any opinion rendered.

I authorize the OHNS to use a photograph of this coin and my name (name only, not address) if it so desires.

PHOTO ☐ YES ☐ NO NAME ☐ YES ☐ NO

_____ Signature of Submittor

_____ Date

THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1409
MALVERN, PA 19355

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

PHONE_____MONIKER (NICKNAME) _____

_____NEW MEMBER OR _____RENEWAL - MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

_____LIFE MEMBER $250.00

_____REGULAR MEMBER (ONE YEAR) $10.00

_____YOUTH MEMBER (UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE) $5.00

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE SOCIETY'S CODE OF ETHICS:

As a member of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, I agree to support and be governed by the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws of the Society and such rules, policies and regulations as may be in force from time to time.

I AGREE to conduct myself so as to bring no reproach or discredit to the Society, or impair the prestige of membership therein.

I AGREE to base all my dealings on the highest plane of justice, fairness, and morality.

I AGREE not to buy or sell numismatic items of which the ownership is questionable.

I AGREE to conform to the accepted standards of dignified advertising. If a hobo nickel is a modern reproduction it shall be so stated.

I AGREE to take immediate steps to correct any error I may make in any transaction.

I AGREE not to sell, exhibit, produce, nor advertise counterfeit copies, restrikes, or reproductions of any numismatic items if their nature is not clearly indicated by the word "counterfeit," "copy," "restrike," "reproduction," or "modern."

I AGREE to represent a numismatic item to be genuine only when, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is authentic.

I AGREE to fulfill all contracts made by me, either orally or written, to make prompt payments upon delivery and to return immediately any items that are not satisfactory.

I AGREE to give aid to members in their quest for numismatic knowledge.

I AGREE most of all to put the welfare of the ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, above any personal gain to myself.

A breach of this Code of Ethics shall be cause for action by the Board of Directors.

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE SEND TO: O.H.N.S.
P.O. BOX 1409
MALVERN, PA 19355

_____
SPONSOR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY

THE ORIGINAL KING OF THE HOBOES ?

By Bill Fivaz

A dealer friend of mine from California called prior to this year's mid-winter in Tucson to advise me that he had run across a photo he thought I'd be interested in. He said there was a handwritten note on a small piece of paper behind the picture that had all the appearances of having been written a long time ago ... stained, brittle and written in and old "hand."

The photo, shown here, is of an elderly gentleman wearing a tall felt hat, a striped shirt, and a kerchief around his neck. The picture had been lightly colored as was the case with many photos prior to the advent of color film, with rosy cheeks, a touch of yellow on the hat, a light blue shirt and red kerchief. Underneath the picture is the gentleman's name - '*Joe Jefferson.*'

The intriguing part of this whole thing is the note was found behind the picture. It read: "Joe Jefferson - elected in 1850 as the first "King of the Hoboes'." My friend allowed me to shoot the picture, and I thought it would make a neat short article for BO TALES. If anyone wants to try to research this, 'ave a go at it, and let us know what you find out.

Interesting ol' guy, this Joe Jefferson.

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John 'Big John' Wilson, member and ANA governor, sends us this article written by Dan Levy of the San Francisco Chronicle and published in the *Milwaukee Journal* on 1/27/91. **HOBOS SWAP TALES OF A ROUGH LIFE .** "Hopalong Chet came on the Southern Pacific line near Palm Springs. Tramp Printer jumped a freight car in Lake Charles, La., and they both arrived to meet two dozen fellow spirits at the National Hobo Association gathering here.

The place was Harrington's Pub on Front St. - not exactly a trackside jungle fire, but good enough to swap stories about hanging out of box cars, staring at a field of cows and run-ins with the 'bulls', the railroad police.

Continued from page 11

In recent years, traveling the country in freight cars and camping by the tracks has become a pastime for a small but eager band of business people, engineers and other professionals looking for kicks.

It is a diversion that has caught on thanks to the enduring allure of trains and to Bobb Hopkins, an actor who founded the hobo association five years ago in Los Angeles and has been promoting hobo life to urbanites ever since.

Hopkins, known on the rails as Sante Fe Bo, was explaining the feeling he gets by 'stepping back into history, riding the same exact routes that hobos were riding a hundred years ago, as Captain Hook, the publisher of Hobo Times was arriving at the bar fresh off a corporate jet ride from Los Angeles.

Pouring beer for anyone holding out a glass was baby-faced Sacramento Kid, 27, and electrical engineer who go bored with conforming in the world, quit his job at IBM and set out for Kansas City with a backpack. Standing nearby was San Francisco resident Big Train Ron Rohlfes, 36, who said he hopped his first train on April Fool's Day last year after reading Hobo Times for year.

But Tramp Printer, a journeyman newspaper printer who claims 500 car rides in 14 years sighed, 'It's getting hard to be a hobo'. He said the hobo life was being threatened by stricter security and an invasion of high-tech yuppies, and a greater number of desperate hardened riders. When you travel today it's downright dangerous said Tramp Printer, as he left to catch the Southern Pacific for Louisiana."

BO TALES
The Newsletter of the .....
ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1409
Malvern, PA 19355